

*Fifth Report "Bible Women in France," and
"Evangelization in France."*



THE BIBLE WOMEN IN FRANCE.

LONDON: MORGAN AND SCOTT,
(OFFICE OF "The Christian,")
12, PATERNOSTER BUILDINGS. E.C.
1875.

NOTICE.

THE journals of the Bible Women are extremely interesting, but we are compelled to restrict ourselves to translations of extracts sufficient to show the character of each one's work. They have given up their various employments, and derive their support entirely from the aid which we have been enabled to give them.

We have a separate fund for Evangelization, and wish to have one also for the printing and circulation of Gospel Tracts, and for printing Tracts and Books for Christians.

Whatever funds our Christian Friends entrust us with will be appropriated entirely to these objects, deducting only the small expense of printing and postage of Reports.

Contributions may be sent to Messrs. MORGAN & SCOTT, the Office of *The Christian*, 12, Paternoster Buildings, London, E.C. (Post Office Orders made payable to Messrs. MORGAN & SCOTT, at the Aldersgate Street Office.)

An account is opened in the name of GEORGE PEARSE, with the London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury, London. Cheques can be sent there by post, addressed to "The Manager of the Bank," to be put to the account of GEORGE PEARSE. If the words "London and Westminster Bank" are written across the front of the cheque it will be perfectly safe.

We shall be thankful if friends interested in France will circulate this Report. A postal card sent to Mr. SCOTT, 12, Paternoster Buildings, requesting one or more Reports will be attended to. They will be sent without charge.

Should any friend wish to communicate with us, our address is 16, Rue de Tilsitt, Ternes, Paris.

GEORGE PEARSE.
JANE BONNYCASTLE PEARSE.

PARIS, *March, 1875.*

REPORT.

It is with real pleasure and profound gratitude to God that we commence our 5th Report of the work of Bible Women in France ; and taking into account the very small amount of aggressive effort being made in this vast country, their labours assume the greatest importance. It will be seen that several of our sisters, possessing gifts for so peculiar a work, have travelled from town to town and department to department, and have made known the gospel over a wide extent of country. It is very affecting to contemplate the deplorable darkness as to saving truth which the journals of these dear Women bring to light on the part of the people amongst whom they labour, and we are deeply thankful that the generosity of English Christians enables us to sustain such efficient evangelists as these Bible Women prove themselves to be, in the midst of such ignorance, incredulity, and superstition.

We can only give specimens of their journals, the extracts being only selected to show the character of their work. Most of them labour amidst great disadvantages, and some in the midst of considerable opposition, and nothing but the grace of God sustaining them could enable them to persevere amidst such difficulties. To many it has been a school of discipline, in which they have proved the faithfulness of God. Many have grown in grace and Christian experience, amidst the ever-changing scenes through which they have passed, necessitating, as it has done, the need of resorting continually to the throne of grace for help and guidance.

THE BIBLE WOMEN.

The number of Bible Women at work is now but sixteen. Several very efficient ones cease for the present to be connected with us for various reasons. One has found an important sphere of labour as directress of an orphan institution, another is married, and a third is called away by family duties, a fourth was not quite efficient, and three others for the present cease to labour, but living in a Protestant district, it is not so important as some others, and we wait to see what may be the Lord's will and our duty

respecting them. We have reason to believe that every one now in fellowship with us is called by the Lord, and we can confidently refer our readers to these brief extracts from their deeply-interesting journals, as showing the spirit which actuates them. Each Bible Woman is now expected to find at least one subscriber for the Bible, or a large type Testament, each week. Though the necessities of the work of evangelization compel us to reside at Paris, Mrs. Pearse keeps up a constant correspondence with the helpers, and the many valuable superintendents who co-operate with us, in order to the thorough efficiency of this service for Christ.

CIRCULATION OF SCRIPTURES, TRACTS, AND BOOKS.

Through the kindness of the British and Foreign Bible Society, we have been supplied with a grant of New Testaments for the soldiers. We wish the Committee could see the avidity with which they are received, and how useful their present has been. It enables the soldiers to follow the teaching of Scripture truth, and one young man sat up till one o'clock in the morning to read his Testament. We have also to thank the Society for a supply of gospel portions.

We have to thank Mr. Hawke, of the Crystal Palace Bible Stand, also for gospel portions.

TRACTS.

The Religious Tract Society of London has kindly supplied us with a grant of French tracts.

The proprietor of the Dublin Tract Society has again kindly supplied us with 100,000 tracts of the "Publications Populaires." From all parts of France information arrives of the awakening and conversion of souls by means of their distribution. We must refer to the extracts of journals for the proof of this.

TRACTS AND BOOKS FOR CHRISTIANS.

Those who are acquainted with the state of French Protestantism will sympathise with us in our desire to spread widely in France tracts and books, bringing out more distinctly many of the great doctrines of the Bible. A writer in the "Temoignage" says, "It is not only indifference that the churches suffer from; another equally grave is *uncertainty as to doctrine*. How few can give a distinct statement as to the Trinity, or on redemption, the new birth, the inspiration of the Scriptures," &c.

For this reason I have written and published tracts on "Union to Christ," "The Example of the Apostle Paul," and just recently a little book, a brief exposition of the "Epistle to the Romans." I shall be thankful to receive pecuniary aid from Christian friends

for this especial object, as persons will not *purchase* books, the object of which is to convict them of "indifference" and "uncertainty as to doctrine."

CIRCULATION OF TRACTS, ETC., BY POST.

Immense facilities are given in France to the circulation of tracts and books by post. A tract may be sent to the extremity of France for one-tenth of a penny. We should be glad to engage in a wide-spread distribution, if we had the means placed at our disposal for purchases of tracts and postage stamps, not forgetting the many English residents and labourers scattered in different towns of France.

EVANGELIZATION IN FRANCE.

The Christian brother who began his work of evangelization in the Ariège has continued to labour in the Var, though subject to persecution, with the aid of a beloved brother who expends a fortune for similar objects in this and other countries. Another well-qualified brother has continued to labour in the Lozère especially, where there are 30 pastors, the great majority of whom are "liberal," or in other words "sceptical." We have been thankful to administer the aid of another Christian friend for this purpose. We would gladly be the medium of extending this aid to others whom the Lord is raising up.

MEETINGS FOR SOLDIERS.

With the valuable aid of our sister, Miss Bonnycastle, we have continued our gospel addresses in the four meetings in different parts of the city. The youth of France, of almost every class of society, flock to the capital, where they hear the gospel, perhaps for the first time in their lives, in our meetings. These meetings are formed each day by gathering them together out of the streets. They come in for the first time, perhaps, out of curiosity; then they get interested; then come under the influence of the truth, and, with the blessing of God on the word spoken, they become awakened, and we can rejoice in the belief that some receive the word in power, and look upon us as their best friends. We have lending libraries connected with each meeting. We have short addresses, lively revival hymns and tunes, and it serves as a kind of home to them. Their officers regard us with favour, and the civil authorities, we are satisfied, who are well acquainted with our work, must be convinced that they are only likely to do good. We avoid controversy, and simply proclaim the fundamental truths of the gospel. Sometimes our meetings are crowded, and often the men go out with the words on their lips "*Au revoir!*" We are indebted to

our esteemed friend and brother, Mr. McAll, for the use of two of his large rooms for the meetings.

FUNDS.

The balance-sheet, and list of donations and subscriptions, show two channels of expenditure for Bible Women, and the work of evangelization by Christian men, the latter fund including expenses of meetings, lighting, firing, *concierges*, cab and omnibus hire, bills, hymns, &c. &c. We have sustained one evangelist entirely, and assisted several others. We have applied the sums entrusted to us according to the wishes of the donors, as far as we could ascertain their intentions. We beg to refer our readers to the notice at the beginning, respecting the use of the funds, and mode of remitting them.

AMIENS,

Formerly capital of the province of Picardy, a large manufacturing town on the river Somme, and the railway half-way between Calais and Paris.

Our sister ADOLPHINE, a genteel Christian widow, a converted Catholic of much character and influence, had laboured with much acceptance in the town, and in many villages around it. Since our last report, she has been induced to accept the post of directress of an orphan institution at some distance. The principal reason for leaving, we fear, was want of sympathy amongst the Protestants of the town, and thus a most valuable labourer is lost to the neighbourhood. We trust she will find an opportunity to visit her former sphere of labour, and that it may please God to raise up another helper to occupy it permanently.

VALENCIENNES

Is in the Department du Nord, in French Flanders, near to Belgium, containing about 25,000 inhabitants. There is a good opening amongst soldiers, for there is a second-class fortress; and also amongst the miners in the collieries, and labourers in the lace and cambric manufactories. Here, and in the neighbouring town of Anzin, two Christian women, sisters, are at work.

CLEMENCE is an experienced Christian woman, of much energy, knowledge of divine truth, faith, and zeal. She holds meetings for her neighbours in her own house, and has, with her sister, made many excursions to neighbouring towns. She writes:

“Entered a house, and found a man using very bad terms in scolding his wife. I told him God was not pleased to hear such words, and that the Scripture gives us Christ’s love to His church as an example to a husband,

and the submission of the wife in the church's subjection to Christ. The words touched him, and he began to speak more becomingly.

"At Valenciennes, a good day. Several agreed in observing that if they were to have religion in the sense in which I was teaching it out of the book, all the world would be happy, as it is sublime.

"The family into which I entered when the husband was scolding his wife has much improved. The word of God had its effect on his heart. He received me very well, and thanked me for my counsels and good readings.

"On the road to A—— how were the people astonished at my sister and myself giving books away for nothing. One street in A—— became full of people; the workpeople came out of a manufactory. The crowd was so great to get tracts that we were obliged to separate and go in different directions. I entered many houses, and spoke to them of Jesus and His love, and the way of salvation. They said, 'Madam, we do not know you, but we know that what you say is the truth; you have done well to come to A—— with these little books. We have been left in ignorance, and many evils come to us through those who ought to instruct us.'

"Went to B——. Distributed tracts. Held a meeting at my own house. Sold two Bibles. Many questions about the Virgin Mary, and confession, and the mass. The people came from a distance. They said, 'Madam, if we were near you we would be of your religion.' Some of them are prepared to receive Jesus as their Saviour. My visit to them, they said, had done them much good.

"We were stopped at —— by the police, to see if our tracts were stamped, and we offered them some for their own use; the people standing by said we had right to do so.

"Went into a house at S——, and had to teach the poor people that it is not a medal, or a piece of cloth, nor a statue made of stone or of wood that could save them, but only the sacrifice of Jesus. They said, 'It is true; the priests only seek our money, and cannot teach us the truth. We would rather go to the temple, where we can understand what is said to us.'

"In a house a young man was playing a dance, and I asked him to play and allow me to sing a 'cantique.' He was very willing to do so, and his mother said, 'Now listen well to the words which the lady addresses to you. If others would give such good advice, there would not be so much debauchery. Truly, as you say, without God there is no good in man.' I left, wishing them the knowledge of God's love.

"Went again to A——. The people are eager to have tracts. They say they are so pretty, so good; but they cannot help contrasting their contents with the lessons they get from their teachers.

"Entered a house, and they said 'We are not of your religion.' I replied, 'There is but one religion that saves; there is no salvation but by the sacrifice of Jesus; He is the Saviour of sinners, and those who believe in Him go to heaven.'

"Another person said, 'If my son had not made his first communion I would have him a Protestant; for your religion is true and good.'

"A lady at Anzin refused my tracts, saying they were Protestant; I was always annoying people with my tracts; and a lady, a friend of

hers, passing at the time, also refused on that account. I told her they only contained the great truths about the sacrifice of Jesus; and if they knew any other way of salvation, they ought to tell me. My tracts contain the sublime truths, which are preferable to all the wealth of the earth. The latter lady consented to read them and reflect about them.

"Visited a poor sick person, hitherto unbelieving. He promised that, if God would spare him, he would go to the temple. Visited so many sick that at length I became ill myself, but it gives an opportunity to get near these people, and they listen to what I say to them.

"Went to a house where several friends had expressed a wish to see me. 'Oh,' said the mistress, 'Madame C——, I did not think that the Protestants had so beautiful a religion! Our curé had given me so sad an account of them; but now, on hearing from you, I see it is very different.'

"Went on an excursion to Lille with my sister. After securing a room, we arranged the bundle of tracts for a good distribution, conversations with Catholics, and distribution in the streets. Were arrested by two policemen, and asked for our authorization. We told them we had none, and so were conducted to the commissaire, who asked if it was on the right or the left of the street that we had distributed. One of the police said to the right, so we were sent to another commissaire, although we had distributed on each side of the street. When we arrived there we found it was too late to see him; but the next day we saw that there were such difficulties connected with a general distribution, that we decided to give up the idea of doing so, and returned home.

"Had another excursion to O——. Entered a house, and announced the gospel of Christ to all who were there. They were greatly astonished to hear of the work of Jesus.

"Went to seek for a Christian person whose address we had, and found a village of glass-makers; then to another place, to a weaving manufactory, distributed largely.

"Went to B——, and was very happy in finding an aged woman to whom I had given a New Testament three years ago. Though she cannot read, she gets her grandson to read daily, and says she is so happy in knowing the Saviour. She converses with Him daily.

"Had very interesting conversations with sisters of the order of St. Vincent de Paul on the sufferings and death of Jesus.

"Entered the barracks, and had conversation with the men. They were eager for tracts. When read, they send them to their relatives.

"Went to B——, and distributed widely to the workmen. They are delighted with the tracts, and prize them highly. Many families are much influenced by their reading.

"At V——. Distributed to the soldiers and to civilians. 'Oh,' said the latter, 'here is the society which will raise up France!'"

ANZIN,

Department du Nord, is near Valenciennes, and has several coal mines. The miners are generally accessible.

FANNY is the sister of Clemence, and they work together very

happily, and preserve the respect of the labouring classes, having ready access to them.

"Visited several sick people, to whom I spoke of Jesus the Saviour, One man especially listened with astonishment, and wept; and when I had finished he said, 'Madam, I want you to return.'

"Distributed tracts at Denain. Several asked me questions concerning the way of salvation.

"A sister came to the house of a person where I had entered, and forbade the woman to read the tracts, not because they were bad, but because they were Protestant. But her husband will read them, and entirely approves of them.

"Went to a funeral; a pastor officiated. At the first Protestant interment the fanatical people threw stones at the pastor's head; to-day, thank God, the people listened to the sermon, and the tracts were well received by every one with much respect. The colporteur, too, sold Bibles and Testaments.

"Went into the neighbourhood of Valenciennes, and I cannot tell you the shameful things I saw and heard; and, in spite of bad treatment, I persevered, and I read and gave many tracts. But before leaving, several persons said, 'Your religion is better than ours, and we will go to the temple.'

"The next day was entirely different at Denain. I was received with joy, and read and prayed with several poor, sinful women who desired to seek the salvation which is in Jesus.

"Was called to see a sick child. The mother asked me to pray, for, she said, 'I have confidence in the prayers of Protestants;' notwithstanding she went on pilgrimage to B——, but came back disgusted, and said, 'That shall be the last time I go on pilgrimage. I could not help thinking of all you told me on my way there and back.'

"Another funeral for a child; our pastors were there. The people listened with profound attention and respect the whole time. They said, 'We can, at all events, understand them, for it is not in Latin.' Distributed tracts largely.

"Went to the soldiers' quarters; the Dragoons received me well.

"Went by railway; the people approved of the Bible, and said I was doing a good work.

"Distributed tracts on all sides without being disturbed. On the contrary, the people came out of their houses to seek for them.

"Went to C——, in Belgium, and had a better reception than even in France. They called to their neighbours, 'See, these ladies are giving away such pretty books.' We soon exhausted our supply.

"Went to visit the soldiers, they listened well, and I spoke of work at Paris, and they were pleased.

"A good day at Denain among the miners.

"Went to Arras, and were well received; also to the barracks, and spoke of salvation, and distributed tracts. We had for a guide a soldier who had often been to the Rue Royale at Paris, and will seek out the meetings there for his comrades when he returns.

"I was called to a group of men, offered my tracts, and they accepted them. They observed that I had New Testaments. One said, 'These

books, I see, come from the British and Foreign Bible Society ; that Society will be the salvation of France.'

"Received a visit from a lady, who asked me the address of the Protestant chapel, that she might go there with her family. 'You have given me,' she said, 'little books with such beautiful prayers, that I wish to hear the pastor.' (The tracts are often called prayers.) Another person came from a neighbouring village, saying, 'My children have read those you gave us, and they want some more.'"

MONTBELLIARD,

A Protestant town in the Eastern Department of Doubs. The people are mainly employed in the making of watch-springs and in the cotton mills.

SOPHIE has now continued her work for upwards of a year. She is much esteemed, and has pursued her work in an humble and prayerful spirit.

"Visited several families, and met with much indifference ; spoke, and gave them tracts.

"To a poor blind man. Read a chapter, and explained it. He said, that in the days of his health he only thought of his work.

"Went to a house. A woman told me she had for some time asked God to convert her.

"To another, a poor woman, a Catholic, who could not read. She was very glad to hear me read, and pressed me to visit her occasionally.

"Again to another Catholic, and spoke of Jesus. She said she had never heard any one speak in this manner, it was all new to her.

"Distribution amongst the soldiers.

"To a poor sick woman, who said how glad she was to see me again. She had meditated all the night after I had read to her the other day.

"Visited a woman who did not believe the word of God. The rationalist pastor had sowed doubts in her mind.

"Conversation with a Catholic woman, who seemed to rest on Jesus. She did not speak of her own sufferings, or of the Virgin Mary, as most Catholics do, and united heartily with me in what I said. I read the word, and united with her in prayer. She eagerly accepted my proposal to have a Bible.

"To a poor woman, whose husband maltreats her, and will not let her pray with her children, or go to the meetings. She begs me to visit her.

"Spoke to a young girl, who afterwards died in the night. I read to her, and it seemed to do her good.

"Visited a poor woman, who is resting on her good conduct. Oh, how impossible it is to convince any one of sin ! It is the work of the Holy Spirit to do that.

"Visits to some very sceptical, others trifling. One woman, a Catholic, receives what I say ; her husband, who is Protestant, rejects it.

"Went to a poor young woman who cannot read, and who wished me to read her tract to her.

"Visited a young woman who sees the necessity of being converted.

"To a house where there were three women, one of whom appears to have spiritual wants.

"Was conversing with a woman, when her husband entered, and drove me away with oaths.

"The next person I saw could not express her thanks enough that her sister-in-law had sent me.

"To Madame C——. Spent some time with her, read and prayed ; and on observing that I had been there some time, she said, 'You must not regret the time you have spent with me, it does me so much good.' How much I feel the need of the Holy Spirit to give to each one the word suitable to their condition.

"One woman thanked me much for coming, and that the Lord had sent me to put her in the right way.

"Visited the workmen. Well received throughout.

"Saw the young person to whom I had read a tract ; it appears to have produced a serious impression. My pastor begs me to pray for him, as he is often discouraged.

"Visited a poor woman, a Protestant, who has reached the age of 70, and has never been visited by a pastor.

"Read in a house 'The Deluge.' A poor woman asked if she might keep 'Mes affaires avant tout.'

"Visited my Catholics with the young workwoman. Read an article in the 'Chambre Haute'—"Those to whom Jesus is precious."

"Read and explained John x. to a poor woman. 'Oh, what good that does to me !' she said.

"Went to several houses, and exhorted the people to be converted.

"Spoke to some on conversion, and they remarked, 'It would be well if all the world were as pious as themselves ; it would be a very different place.' To talk of the second birth is like speaking Latin to them.

"Visited with Anna a dear Bible Woman from Berne. These visits, I believe, have done good ; she speaks with so much love to them. But this dear sister has now left ; but as she bears me up before the throne of grace, with all these dear souls whom I visit, it gives me fresh courage.

"On entering my house after visiting I seemed to hear a voice speaking to me, 'Press them to enter in, that my house may be filled.'

"I sat down and wrote what I thought the Spirit gave me to say to one who had not rest in Christ.

"A young woman has lost her husband. She lived so happily with him that till this stroke she did not feel the need of seeking a higher happiness. She is broken down, and thirsts for consolation. I prayed with her, and it seemed to do her good.

"Visited this poor woman again, and hearing of a poor widow at A——, who has been wonderfully supported in a similar trial, she begged me to conduct her to her. We arrived there, and this dear woman told the newly-made widow how she had made an idol of her husband, and exhorted her to turn to the Lord and find the balm for her wound. On returning, we met other Christian people, who spoke encouragingly to her. It was truly a day of spiritual good to her.

"A poor woman begged me to come again and see her, as I had done her good. Oh that the Lord may say to me, 'Thou hast laboured for my

name, and hast not fainted !' Perhaps I shall see that the seed sown in His name has not been lost.

"A person of S—— begins to feel the burden of her sins. She came to see me, and after speaking with her she expresses her desire to live for the Saviour.

"Visited two women at M—— who appear to wish to be Christians indeed.

"Went to H——. Some people there have spiritual wants. Others say, 'When one is dead, one is well dead ;' and again, 'It suffices not to have committed murder nor robbery.' Others again, 'We are to be saved by faith, but that we must also expiate our sins in purgatory.' Some are so bigoted. One woman says she does not want to be taught, she believes in the one only good religion.

"Spoke to several of the weavers. Now, may He alone who can convince of sin accomplish His work !

"Read in a family from a book examples of several persons who had deferred their conversion till too late. The father came to the door with me, and thanked me for these good counsels.

"A blessed day. I have experienced a little of that joy which the angels experience when sinners repent. A woman under the weight of sorrow has listened to my exhortations. Another afflicted woman receives me well, and two others give good attention. Another person, too, is beginning to think seriously of her soul.

"Conversation with two women, and read the Bible. My language seemed incomprehensible to them. May God enlighten them, and open their understandings.

"Spoke to an orphan girl, telling her of the death of a young man she knew. She wept, and said she would spend her Sunday afternoons with me.

"Had a meeting in my room in the evening ; we were seven persons. May God bless these meetings held in His name.

"Met with a young woman in the railway providentially directed. I had previously known her, and she had need of my counsels.

"Met with a person at H—— who had been awakened by the late M. Forestier."

PARIS,

With its immense population of the working classes, is still as accessible as ever, the door for labour being wide open. The same may be said of the nearly 40,000 soldiers in the bastions, on the fortifications, and the numerous barracks within the city.

Mr. McAll has just opened his twelfth station in the centre of Paris, and is much encouraged in his work. The authorities continue to show a most friendly spirit. We still occupy two of his large rooms for meetings for soldiers and ouvriers, it being found desirable not to have meetings exclusively of the former ; but it is at an hour when workmen mostly are at dinner, so that the great majority are soldiers.

The daily preaching of the gospel by Mr. Armand Delille and

his assistants still continues at 23, Rue Royale, from three to four. It is an important centre of a very important work.

JULIE still continues her work at Paris, and is very useful in getting up the meetings for soldiers. She is Alsatian, and often has access to German families who have come up to the capital from Alsace and Lorraine.

The following are extracts from her journals :

"Review on the Champs de Mars. Distributed tracts during the time of rest.

"To Batignolles and Clichy, to the chiffonniers.

"To Plaisance, to the coachmen and street-sweepers.

"To a poor family at the Place du Trone, and to several Alsatian families.

"To the Invalides. A man has read and re-read my tracts ; he says they do him good.

"On the Champs de Mars. Distributed. An officer came to see what it was. I handed him 'Robert & son capitaine.' He turned it over. Then I gave him a gospel portion. 'It is Protestant,' he said. 'No,' I replied, 'the gospel is not called either Protestant or Catholic.'

"To V——, to the barracks, accompanied by a guard. Over all the rooms our tracts were well received. Then to the Camp for the same purpose.

"To S. D——. Entered two forts. Conversations with soldiers on the gospel.

"To C——. Distributed to the soldiers.

"To N—— and the fort V——. Good distribution.

"To St. C——. To the two barracks.

"To the market of G——. Had a little meeting with the women.

"Again to the barracks of St. C——. An officer to whom I offered my tracts, said, 'All these little books can only do good.'

"Went with Noemi to F——. Entered the barracks, and, with the aid of a guard, went to various rooms. The men were eager for the little books ; the officers approved of them ; but we were obliged to promise to come the next day, as our stock of tracts was not sufficient for all.

"I was interrupted in our distribution the next day ; but a gentleman in private dress said 'they were evangelical tracts,' and might receive them. He showed us where we might distribute in other directions. We distributed 3,000 tracts, 450 lithographed letters, and 100 gospel portions.

"To St. O——. To the school of M. Ellenberger, to speak to the children.

"To A——. We distributed through the town, taking each one side of the street. Waited for the exit of the workmen from the factories, and distributed to them ; they received them eagerly.

"To C—— and to P——. Obligated to rest the next day on account of fatigue.

"To B—— and M——. To persons who have received good in the meetings of Mr. McAll.

"To Pantin, Romainville. To St. O., where we visited families of labourers at the glass-works.

"With Noemi, to the camp of V——; afterwards to the bastion of V——.

"Accompanied by her to other bastions and forts. To N—— to the fort, and was most graciously received by the commandant and his lady. They heard all about our work, and highly approved of it. He was so glad we were not afraid of soldiers, and sent us with a guard into the different rooms of the barracks. Visited the fort a second time, to finish our work, having first seen the commandant's lady. She much admired the tracts; the lithographed letter she thought touching, and thought we should do good to the men.

"To the camp of St. G——. A fatiguing day. To C—— R——. Distributed to the workmen; a good day.

"With Madame Jenny to the Military Hospital to see three soldiers. Also with her to V——, and then to the camp of M——, where our books were received eagerly. Sailors were here, but at exercise. A sergeant took tracts for them, and promised to distribute them.

"To the camp of M——. A captain forbid us to distribute, and told us not to return.

"Was distributing at a bastion. An officer interrupted us suddenly by asking if we were authorised to do so. I told him our tracts were stamped. He replied, 'That does not concern me.' He looked over all my tracts, and told me to be off, and not to come again without a written permission. To another bastion, and were permitted to distribute; all the men very eager to get them.

"Went to the Prefecture again, and asked for a permission to distribute, which was positively refused.

"To the bastion in another direction, and tracts gratefully received. One soldier ran after us, and found that he was an 'habitué' at our meetings.

"To the Invalides. Good and excellent conversations.

"To another bastion. An officer took some of our tracts, and said he should be most happy to put them into circulation.

"To the bastions of M. B.; an excellent day. Placed some German New Testaments with invalides. To a sick person, spoke of the one thing needful. Visited many old Catholics. Some begin to know themselves; others said they had found peace. May the Lord be praised.

"With Madame Jenny to the camp at V——. Were confronted by the captain and lieutenant; the latter said I was young to attend to such a work. The captain said I was employed by the Prussians, and he chased us away. We went in another direction, and happily met with some men who had been habitués at our meetings in Paris, and so regretted they could not get to them.

"Distributed at another bastion, and the officer in command swore at us and sent us away."

Our Sister JENNY has come up to Paris to assist in the work. The following are extracts from her journal whilst here:

"Went to Ternes, and visited a poor sick woman; read and prayed

with her. To barracks, and spoke with one of the officers. In the square, gave tracts and good conversation with some women.

"To the camp of St. G——. We do not give details of these visits to camps, forts, and bastions, as they will be found in JULIE's journal.

"Visited a sick soldier at the hospital, who had attempted to commit suicide. He had not thought of a life to come, and I had a long conversation with him; he begged me to return. Saw the Invalides. One of them said Napoleon I. was the Saviour; he sought the good of the people, but he was betrayed.

"Again to the hospital. Two Protestant soldiers asked to see me. To the hospital B., to visit an aged man. Spoke to him and to two other sick people. To the hospital; it is a subject of rejoicing. Two of the soldiers have given their hearts to Jesus. God has begun his work in them.

"To P——. Conversation with a young girl, who appeared touched. Was stopped by a sergeant of police. He asked me if my tracts were political. He was soon satisfied, and said all right. Again to the hospital to visit the sick soldiers. One of them is much better, and goes home this night. He thanked me much, saying that my visits had done him good. May the Lord finish the work which He has begun in his heart.

"Gave a tract to a woman, who said, 'It is God who has put you in my way; I am so unhappy, near to despair.' Spoke to her of Jesus, and gave her a gospel.

NOEMI is a young, earnest Christian woman, who has for years been connected with an infirmary in the south of France, and attended to the soldiers in an ambulance during the war. For some months she has been assisting us in Paris.

"At a meeting for soldiers, they expressed their gratitude that God had sent them friends to speak to them of Jesus. Several rendered thanks that they had received the pearl of great price; their countenances beamed with joy as they said so.

"To D——. Giving a gospel to a sergeant, he said, 'I understand that; for when I was a prisoner in Germany some ladies brought us those gospels.'

"To a bastion, and distributed. One man of advanced age received my words with much attention. May they bring forth fruit to eternity.

"Entered a washing-place where were thirty women, and spoke to them. They listened well, and said we will read these books with attention. To the camp. Good distribution. Visited some sick people, and spoke to them of the Saviour. To the Invalides, and spoke to the old men of Jesus.

"Distributed to the chiffonniers at the Cité du Soleil. To St. O——. Spoke to the children of the school, and found many families who would be glad for us to visit them, and speak to them of Jesus.

"Some poor women invited us into a house in a court. They seemed most eager to hear the truth, and said, 'Here we are, like so many beasts in our state of ignorance.' All men, women, and children work on Sundays. We read and prayed with them. The serjents de ville notice our distribution, and are very good to us.

"To Argenteuil, and distributed tracts to 3,000 ouvriers; men and women all received them well. A poor infirm woman rendered thanks to God for having sent friends to speak to her, and read and pray with her.

"To Charonne, and saw my poor sick man. He said he was delighted to hear such good things. Visited two posts of soldiers, and distributed to the coachmen and railway men. Distributed to the charbonnières and to workmen at Courbevoie.

"To the glass-works, and saw the poor women. Several gathered in a neighbouring house, where I read and prayed with them. They are Catholics, but understand that names will not suffice before God.

"Visited a poor suffering woman who is full of her own righteousness; prayed with her, and asked God to convince her of sin.

"Spoke to the invalides. I have the sweet conviction that God will accomplish his work in the hearts of some of them.

"To Aubervilliers. A happy day, and our heavenly Father was with us. Distributed to workmen in factories, and spoke to many of the Saviour."

Our sister's health suffered while she was in Paris. She has returned to her home.

AUXERRE,

In the old Province of the Duchy of Burgundy, chief town of the Department of the Yonne, a station of the French Evangelization Society.

We had sustained for some time a Bible Woman, under the superintendence of an English lady, well known in England, Miss Sarah Vines, but have discontinued to do so, not finding her quite adapted to this aggressive kind of work.

On going to press we have just received the account of the departure of our dear aged friend Miss Vines, who had for thirty-four years lived at Auxerre, and all that time devoted herself to the spiritual good of the French people. Her last report, just come to hand, says, "I would praise the Lord for the delight He has never ceased to give us in His service, so that we can say, 'The joy of the Lord has been our strength.'"

Her niece, Mrs. Martha V. Davies, Russell Street, Reading, will still be the medium of communicating any gifts which friends may wish to send to the Auxerre Mission.

ST. ETIENNE,

A large manufacturing town in the Department of the Loire. It is the Birmingham of France—surrounded by coal mines, and even placed on coal deposits. Here are manufactured guns, ribbon, hardware and cutlery, knives and cables; the workmen live on the outskirts of the town and the adjoining villages.

Our sister ISABEAU, who at first laboured in the Haute Loire, subsequently came to St. Etienne, having a brother a labourer there. We trust she has been made a blessing in both places. She writes:

"I feel a deep compassion for these poor Catholics in their great darkness; they unite in considerable numbers to come and hear me speak of that dear Saviour who gave His life for them and loves them.

"We have a little meeting in another place, and I met an anxious soul there. At dawn of day went to see some sick people; and in the evening to another quarter.

"A meeting with young girls, and spoke of the love of God. In the evening spoke to the unconverted.

"A strange brother arrived, who came to encourage us to further the kingdom of God; we decided to have meetings in all quarters of the town. God grant us a revival at St. Etienne. Visited an aged Catholic, whose soul is athirst for the word of God; in the evening they came to the room to sing.

"Went to see some awakened souls. How they sigh after the grace of God! I prayed earnestly that God would vouchsafe them His grace.

"To a village to see a dying person; but his anxious face betrayed the desire of his soul. Spoke to him of that dear Saviour who gave His life for us.

"Went to visit several families; but they are very ignorant. They said, to labour was to pray. I showed them their ingratitude towards God. They listened well, and accompanied me on the road, and begged me to return and see them. Visited some families of miners; read the word of God. I thank God for such access amongst them.

"Spoke to several, and it appears to me that the word finds access to their hearts; sick and aged, and mothers of families, they come into my room that I may pray with them.

"To the Sunday-school, and addressed the children.

"To the village of Villan, and spoke to the travellers on the way; gave tracts, and sold New Testaments.

"Some young girls came to me to pray with them. Had a supply of tracts. May the Lord bless those dear friends who make such sacrifices for our poor France.

"Oh, what joy I experience in seeing souls pass from death to life!

"Called on the pastor, with another sheep newly brought to the Lord.

"Spoke to a meeting of women; it was the first time that some had heard the gospel; they said they would like to hear me often.

"Had some wives of colliers together. They told me of their difficulties and struggles. We prayed for their friends and husbands, and sang some cantiques. It had a great effect on them.

"I have to tell you something that may disturb you. I have had an offer of marriage from an excellent Christian man. This will take me into another field of labour.

"I am now married. We live at an hour's distance from St. Etienne, and I trust the Lord will bless me amongst these poor ignorant souls.

"I can still visit and console anxious souls; only in my new position I shall of course have to care for my husband, and therefore must ask you to release me from my position of Bible Woman."

We are happy to say that we have found a suitable person to replace ISABEAU. ANNA is already at work at St. Etienne.

LYONS.

This is the second city in France, a great and stately one, on the two great rivers, the Rhone and the Saône. It is the centre of the silk trade, and though the seat of the Propaganda, the labouring classes are much estranged from the church, with the exception of some of the women. There is a great and widening sphere of labour here.

JOSEPHINE continues her work. She is an intelligent and experienced Christian, possessing tact and knowledge of the people. She meets with some opposition, but encounters it with Christian patience.

"A lady and two gentlemen called me in, and the lady told me she had taken a tract in the street and put it aside in a corner, but having a little leisure she read it, and was surprised to find such good things. The Protestants, she said to herself, are in the truth, but being born Catholic, I cannot change my religion.

"Entered several forts and barracks. An officer stopped me, and asked what I was doing. I gave him a tract. He observed, 'It is Protestant,' and began to read it.

"A person took a tract, and was about to tear it up, but I told him to read it first. He thought it was from the Catholics. He found out his mistake, and became calm.

"Met a poor distressed woman, who told me she had many medals and chaplets. She said her Paternoster and other prayers, but it was no good. I told her she had not addressed herself to God, but had put her confidence in pieces of wood and silver, and told her how to pray in faith.

"The Catholics accuse me of not believing in the Virgin. I read to several women the history of Mary in the New Testament, and their prejudices were removed.

"A gentleman to whom I had given a tract accosted me, and asked for others for two of his friends. 'I take them,' said he, 'into my workshop, and read them to my workmen; and I tell them the gospel is not understood, it is hidden from them.'

"Was surrounded by ten or fifteen persons in a street, and announced salvation to them. They asked me the address of our chapel.

"Visited a sick person recently converted.

"Went to visit a sick workman. How was I surprised to find that he had just died! His wife said his last words were, 'Calm yourself; I am happy, and go to heaven,' and tried to console her.

"A conversation with three women, and explained that salvation is all of God. 'Yes,' one said, 'our religion is but one of externals and mechanism.' I spoke of conversion.

"To the military hospital; but they asked me if I came from the Jesuits or from Henri V.

"Called by several women in their house, and was asked what they must do to be of my religion. They could not go on with their own,

and my little books were excellent. 'I do not know how you Protestants worship God; you have nothing in your churches but the four walls; you have not the "Fête de Dieu," nor that of "Mary."' I told them many things out of the New Testament, and that to worship, we must worship God in spirit and in truth.

"Conversation with a woman who wishes to know the truth. She wishes to remain a Catholic, but she does not believe in the infallibility of the Pope, or in the commandments of the church.

"Was accused by a man and his wife with not believing many necessary truths, being a Protestant. I told them I would explain what I believed out of the gospel. 'Ah,' they said, 'your gospel and ours is not the same!' They then showed me their gospel, which was a New Testament of Martin, which they had had long by them. I read passage after passage to refute all that they had told me, and they were all attention and surprise at its contents. I then showed them the way of salvation, and hope it had its effect on them.

"Visited a poor woman, who is anxious about her soul. She comes now to hear the preaching of the gospel, but her husband beats her for doing so. She was awakened by reading 'Le Songe.'

"To the quays and to 'La Guillotiere.' To-day I am not accused of being the friend of the curé, but am called the 'Lady of the Book.'

"Was mocked by two youths; but on reasoning with them they became more serious, and took tracts. They said, 'We are sorry to have annoyed you; we see you have more respect for God than we have. We will not make a bad use of your books, but will read them with attention.' They were evidently disgusted with religion on account of being badly taught.

"Several men in the gardens spoke to me, and said, 'If we go into your chapel, you will not tell us such lies as we are accustomed to hear.'

"Visited five families. Had serious conversation about salvation. At one of these they read the New Testament with two of their neighbours.

"A woman to whom I had given a tract invited me to visit her. I did so. She told me that the tract referred to the Bible; and as I had told her the Bible was a book inspired by God, she turned to her Bible, which she had had by her for ten years, and had not read it. 'It was given me by a lady, who spoke like you,' she said; 'now I wish you to explain it to me.'

"A poor woman told me, with her hand upon her heart, 'You have done me more good than the curé.'

JENNY continued to labour some time at Lyons. She is a person of considerable experience, pursuing her quiet, even way, trusting in the Lord, and doing good as the occasion presents itself to her.

"Visited a poor woman at Les Brotteaux. She is blind. 'How glad I am you have come to see me. I have said an "Ave Maria" and a "Pater" in order that you should come back again. No one reads to me but you.'

"Visited a woman who had been prejudiced by her priest against the Protestants. 'But one day,' she said, 'I entered the chapel, and the preaching and the prayer did me much good.'

"Visited another woman who thirsts after the truth. She says she can no longer go to mass, and wishes to know the gospel. 'If I go,' she says, 'my heart is empty. They teach me to pray to the Virgin and to the saints. Teach me how to pray.'

"To the village of St. D——, where there is a little company of converted Catholics. A young man there, in distributing tracts at a funeral, was arrested, and condemned to fifteen days in prison. Visited his wife, who is much depressed, her relatives being bigoted Roman Catholics.

To O——, where there is a Protestant teacher who has 80 children in her school. Good distribution, as well as to the workmen coming out from the factory.

"To B——. Two workwomen begged me to go and see them, and explain several passages in the gospel, which they do not understand.

"Visited a girl who is sceptical, who expressed much pleasure in seeing me. 'I have read your book twice, and have thought much of what you said to me. My little book made me weep.' It was 'L'Amour d'une Mère.' 'Read out of your Bible. Oh, if I could believe like you!'

"A man said, 'Your books are interesting; give me some for my comrades.'

"Visits in the town. In a house the husband was glad to talk with me, and wishes to know the gospel. The wife is a great devotee, and says she does not wish to change her religion. I explain that it is a change of heart which is necessary.

"A person in B—— said, 'I was disposed to think that the priest was a god; but my heart desires something else now.' She asked me many questions on the gospel.

"A woman said, 'My husband works in a grotto, in order to place an image of a virgin which works miracles. There will be a pilgrimage there soon. Our religion is making unbelievers, though they say that out of it is no salvation. Bring me more of your little books.'

"Went into a very bad quarter, and made a good distribution; but such indifference!

"At B—— women mocked at my tracts; the men receive them well. A girl came to fetch some tracts for several men who wanted them.

"At C—— the people thought that it was the curé who had sent me to distribute tracts.

"Visited an old woman, a devotee, who does not like, she says, the grimaces of her religion; but she has much confidence in the Virgin who has performed miracles for her. I read the Testament. She begged me to return.

"To O——. The people are very desirous to have tracts. God in His goodness has opened the heart of that unbelieving girl. She told me how glad she was to see me, and that she can now trust in Jesus.

Our sister LUCIE will replace JENNY, who has come up to Paris. She is a Christian woman of some standing, and is already at work.

BORDEAUX,

In the old Province of Guienne, is the third seaport town in France, the capital of the Department de la Gironde. It is the centre of the wine trade. The quays and buildings extend along the banks of the Garonne for three miles in the shape of a crescent.

The sister, MARIE B——, has laboured here for several months, somewhat interrupted by the care of her family. Her tact, zeal, Christian character, and experience, rendered her a valuable labourer.

The following are extracts from her journal :

“Visited two young women, ‘ouvrières.’ There is much need of a motherly supervision over them.

“Came across unfortunate workmen in a state of drunkenness.

“Visited a family much tried by want of work. Read with them and encouraged them to trust the promises of God, and succeeded in finding them work.

“A poor Catholic came to ask me to procure her a Bible. She cannot read, so I have arranged that friends should read to her. ‘Oh, how glad shall I be,’ she said, ‘poor ignorant, to hear what the good Jesus says in these lines!’

“Visited a woman who has just lost her little girl. The room was filled with Catholics: poor hands at rendering consolation. I read the Scriptures, and several tracts; the silence was admirable. The poor mother seeks consolation in the gospel. At the cemetery; it is an admirable means of evangelization.

“Invited to visit a sick person in the hospital. Was hindered by a sister of charity; but as I had right to enter I waited, and found the means of getting at this poor sick one. Oh, what joy she had to see and hear me!

“Went to the Quays. A great many men out of employment. The sailors listened with attention.

“Visited some poor families of Catholic workpeople. There is some progress. I read the Bible and explained it to them. The sisters oppose me very much, and threaten these poor people with hell. They reply, ‘Your words only confirm us in the faith of the promises of the gospel.’

“Visited a poor girl who has got into trouble through sin. I exhorted her to repentance, and to accept the grace of Jesus. I went to get her work.

“Visited the barracks. Distributed and spoke to these brave soldiers. How I am touched with compassion for them, on observing their fatigue and their submission.

“Visited the neighbourhood of the Crèche amongst Catholic families. Spoke freely of the gospel. Disposed of New Testaments.

“Distributed tracts to labourers newly arrived. Was well received, and asked to visit their families.

“Accompanied a young lady on a visit to her physician, and was able to instruct her in the gospel on the way.

"Visited a family of young girls, orphans. How much they need the support and consolation of the gospel.

"Visited the hospital, and was permitted to enter and speak of the gospel. Three women and two men were very happy to hear the truth.

"To the Quay, and had good opportunity whilst sitting down to speak to workmen, sailors, and marines, coming and going repeatedly.

"To the park. Good conversations with soldiers, some of them are Protestants. I told them not to be ashamed to go to worship on the Sunday. None have New Testaments even.

"Visited a poor woman afflicted with cancer.

"To the Boulevard. Met many persons to whom I spoke of salvation. My tracts help me to do so.

"Also to a little village near Bordeaux, to Catholic families."

We much regret that so valuable a sister is obliged to leave this great city, with all its spiritual need. But she has duties to perform in the family of a married daughter at a distance.

MONTAUBAN

Is also in the old Province of Guienne, and is the chief town of the Department of Tarn and Garonne. It has a Protestant college for training young men for the ministry of the National Reformed Church. Some of the professors and many of the students take an active part in the promulgation of the gospel. The view of the great plain, extending to the Pyrenees on the one side and the sea on the other, is magnificent. It is a manufacturing town, mainly of woollen tissues.

ELIZABETH continues her work here amongst rationalistic Protestants and ignorant Catholics. She is a conscientious, humble, and prayerful Christian, and speaks the *patois* of the village people.

The following are extracts from her journal :

"I have thought and prayed much about that which Mrs. Pearse has written to me. I have asked the Lord to teach me and guide me as to the manner of conducting the work. At first I thought I was not called to it, and begged the Lord to show me what was His will ; but I can now follow the way which He is pleased to show me, and do so with courage, confiding in Him.

"My tracts are frequently the means of introducing me, and through them I get into conversation with people. I only speak of serious things ; of course there are little things I can speak of in connection with their families, and show sympathy, and thus they are well-disposed towards me. I often get the opportunity of reading and praying with the people, and that in *patois* ; and they are happy and grateful for it.

"To the country, and paid several visits on the road. Had good conversations with the passengers. Spoke to a man about reading the Bible. He asked me many questions about divisions amongst Protestants and the Synod.

"Visited a sick woman ; spoke of Jesus. Invited to return.

"To the country. Visited a poor woman who attends a rationalistic pastor ; engaged her to come into town on Sunday and hear a faithful pastor.

"Oh, in what a state of ignorance our poor people live ! I was deeply afflicted at seeing it, and how indifferent they are about the word of God.

"Distributed to soldiers.

"Market-day ; but the people are so taken up with their affairs. I have asked the Lord to give me the grace to go in and out among them ; but I have not this grace, and get on better in the houses.

"Some poor persons who could not get to the public worship asked me if I could have worship with them in *patois*. They called their neighbours in, who were happy to come.

"To two houses where there are sick people. I spoke of the necessity of conversion, and prayed with them.

"To the country. A woman said she could not express her joy in my coming to see her.

"Since I have engaged in this work I have never had so much joy, and so many subjects of encouragement, as during this last month.

"Read an article from the *Chambre Haute* to a well-disposed woman, and it was much blessed to her. She has been to our prayer meeting.

"In a house I visited, the whole family listened to the gospel ; but they do not fully appreciate it. I have prayed much for them that they may receive the Holy Spirit.

"Many visits. Prayed with a friend, and I can say that I work with renewed courage. The Lord sustains me.

"Conversation with a Catholic on the joy of the gospel, and of that full assurance which is the privilege of those who believe. He is thankful for these conversations.

"In a house I read a journal and prayed ; this person now goes to worship.

"Conversation with an intelligent person, who attends the rationalist pastor, on the gospel. She begins to see the difference between truth and error.

"Distributed to the soldiers. Many were eager to have them. On looking round I saw them sitting under a tree and reading attentively.

"In a house I read a chapter, and spoke of the love of the Saviour, and prayed.

"Entered a house where there were four women. Read a tract and explained it ; but they did not understand it at all.

"To a sick person, spoke and prayed. She could not sufficiently thank me. In trying to do good to one person, I experienced a great blessing on my own soul.

"To the country. The poor peasants are so ignorant that they think the orthodox Protestants will soon say 'Mass,' this is the effect of rationalistic teaching. I feel utterly inefficient to remedy this ignorance ; but I do what the Saviour tells me to do, and look to Him to accomplish His work in their hearts by His Holy Spirit.

"I am much afflicted with the great ignorance of the Protestants, even those who profess to know and love the gospel.

"I have induced a woman to lend me her room for a meeting on Sunday evening.

"In one house a poor woman told me her sorrow has been turned into joy since we had the meetings.

"I arranged a mothers' meeting; at the first meeting we were five. May the Lord bless this little beginning.

"Gathered some young girls who are receiving their religious instruction; read and prayed with them.

"Had a most interesting and edifying prayer meeting. A woman told me she had received much good at the prayer meeting. I prayed with her, and immediately she lifted up her voice in prayer, confessing her sins, and consecrating herself entirely to the Lord."

We have much comfort in thinking of the work of this dear sister. The momentary hesitation we felt has been quite removed. She works conscientiously, and in a spirit of prayer.

TOULOUSE,

Situated on the river Garonne. It was formerly the capital of Languedoc, now of the Department of La Haute Garonne. This is the city of the troubadours. Its population is about 130,000. There is a considerable trade here. The Book Society of Toulouse has its committee and dépôt here.

Our sister PAULINE is an active, intelligent Christian woman—pious, able, and devoted. It is very extraordinary how many seeking souls there are in this town. There are hundreds throwing off the yoke of the priests who ask to be instructed.

"Met a women, to whom I gave the tract, 'It is good to have been afflicted.' She said I must consider her as one of the worst of criminals. She refused to take another. In another family I read the word of God, and spoke to them of salvation; but they were so bigoted they would not accept tracts. Visited a family who are said to be sceptics, but they listened well as I read the word of God, and begged me to think of them in my prayers.

"Distributed tracts to the soldiers, and in another barrack distributed tracts. One soldier begged me to procure for him a New Testament.

"Each day I enter fresh quarters, or a new faubourg, and return home rejoiced to know that the Lord has given me a fresh token of his love, and encouraging me with some new success in his work. May He be pleased to continue this sweet privilege is my earnest desire.

"Entered a house where were a man and three women, and had a little meeting for prayer.

"To a baker's, where was a dressmaker, who was so impressed by the promises, and my explanation of the word of God, that she could only reply to my wishes for her spiritual good by her sobs.

Visited and read to a Jewish lady, who wishes to become Protestant. I notice with joy that each day the Lord reveals Himself to some soul. A man met with an accident; it has thrown him upon himself, and led

to reflection, and he professes with joy the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Prayed with him.

"Read with the women of the Halle. One said, 'You read out of a Protestant book.' I told her it was the word of God. The others, with one accord, said it was better than the 'paroissien' and all those 'latinades,' and that they can no longer hear the curés.

"A poor widow, rejecting entirely the convictions of the gospel. Met to-day an elderly lady, who tastes how good the Lord is. The only one I have met this day. Placed a New Testament in a family, who no longer wish to be under the yoke of the priests.

"Read in a 'buvette' to a Catholic by birth, but Protestant in heart. In another house, a meeting with several persons. One young woman had never before heard of salvation by grace. She was so happy to listen, and asked for a New Testament.

"Visited a person who, nominally a Protestant, had turned Catholic. She met with an accident, which led her to reflection; now she is totally changed. In a house, met with three young women; read the Scriptures. They would not let me go without prayer; their mother wept with joy, and begged me to return.

"In the same court, a group of women pressed me to enter and read something to them.

"I see with pleasure that the tracts prepare souls to listen to the word of God.

"Visited a house: a young girl afflicted with an illness, as well as her father and mother, and being outside the town, they were outside of all spiritual aid. I prayed with them, and had the joy of observing that they were much impressed with the word of God and prayer.

"In a turn in the faubourg I held a little meeting. I left a New Testament, for they said they had never heard anything so edifying. At St. M——, read and distributed several tracts. Visited a poor woman suffering from a serious malady. I prayed with her earnestly and in faith. She has written to me since; that prayer has been heard.

"Called to visit and stay with a sick young woman. Had a good opportunity for four nights to evangelize. Spoke to a young woman at the tobacco manufactory. She says the young women would receive me well.

"My poor, sick woman who was cured in answer to prayer, begins to understand the word of God; in fact, she is a different woman to what she was. To the Lord be all the glory. Visit to a sick person much afflicted, who wept with joy in listening to a prayer which expressed the wants of his soul. Begged me to return.

"In the interior of the town discovered some souls, who, notwithstanding their occupation, listen to the word of God, and receive the tracts with joy. Entered a faubourg, and found an elderly woman, to whom I read several passages of Scripture. She said she had never heard such things before. Prayed with her, and she made me promise to return.

"To a paralytic, who said that the Protestant religion was better than theirs. His wife was awakened at a funeral, and now wishes to have the New Testament.

"Found a group of women. One said, 'It is just what we want. The

Lord has sent you into this quarter.' The others were very attentive during my visit.

"Met with a family who receive my tracts. The husband said to the wife, 'Why do you not pray with me?' She replied, 'I did not dare to do it before you; but if he did so, she would.' And now they pray together. This greatly encourages me.

"On the promenade met a young man who is ill, announced salvation by grace, and he took it well.

"An officer permitted me to distribute amongst his soldiers.

"Several visits to workpeople. On seeing me they cried out, 'Oh, you are welcome!'"

"Read and prayed in several places. 'We do like to hear you pray from the heart, and according to our wants, it is so different from the "latinades" of the priests.'

"I have a meeting in the faubourg; several come in when they see me arrive. It is touching to see these people so happy at hearing the gospel.

"Read to a poor woman who cannot read. She devoured the teaching of the gospel of Luke. She wept as she said, 'I have arrived at the age of 40 without knowing these things.' One poor woman to whom I spoke said she loved Jesus more than the Virgin.

"The people at the railway pressed upon me to get tracts. Held a meeting in one quarter, and they were so happy they begged me to come daily, which I could not promise. I meet with so many people tired of the yoke of the priests; indeed, there are many amongst the working classes who wish to hear the good news of salvation by grace.

"Read and prayed with an anxious soul. She wept, and embraced me, and said she could follow me everywhere.

"Visited a sick person, who told me she had been sustained by the good words I had repeated.

"A woman calls in her neighbours when she sees me, that they may hear me read and explain the word of God.

"Went into a quarter where there are persons having a great desire to come to the knowledge of the true God.

"To St. M——, where there are persons thirsting after the truth. Others can no longer go to mass.

"A meeting with three men and three women, who all desire to belong to the Saviour. Read and prayed with them.

"A soldier met me, and as he saw me distributing, he asked if I was a stranger in Toulouse. He was moved even to tears at meeting with one who spoke to him of the Saviour.

"Distributed tracts and evangelized in a railway, to a quarter at some distance from the town.

"Distributed to workmen in a factory which I was permitted to enter; repeated passages of Scripture. They said, 'Ah, this is far better than all their 'latinades.' If we go to church it must be with money in our hands; the priests make a business of religion.'

"Visited a young married couple. They said they would like to come to the temple and hear a Protestant preacher. Read them a chapter from St. John. They said the words were so beautiful that they felt the truth of them in their hearts.

"A woman in the faubourg St. M—— said that she no longer went to mass ; and if she came to the temple, would they put her out ?

"Distributed amongst the soldiers, and addressed words of exhortation to them. One of them laughed, and was reproved by a comrade, who said, 'How can you laugh when they speak to you of such things? With us it is nothing but Latin. For myself, I would rather belong to a church where they only speak of Jesus Christ.'

"Visited several elderly people. A woman said, 'I assure you, that since the Lord has revealed Himself to my soul I am indeed happy.' Her husband said, 'And I was a thief and robber, but the Lord is good to have pardoned a sinner like me. Never can I render Him gratitude sufficient ; but I confess His name to all who come near me.' Oh, what encouragement does the Lord give to my feeble efforts !

"Found a poor woman who is ill-treated by her husband. But she has found the pearl of great price since she read her New Testament, and her one desire now is to see her husband converted. We prayed that so it might be.

"To a tailor's shop. This woman has many workwomen. I spoke to them of salvation, to their great astonishment. The woman thanked me much.

"I saw several soldiers, who asked for my address. They want me to speak more at length on the things of God.

"Found a woman, who said, 'Since I have heard you I am troubled about my soul. I will not remain as I am ; I wish to be as you are, and to know the revealed truth of God. I wish to follow it. Conduct me and my son to some pastor ; we have made up our minds about it.'

"Entered a washing establishment to give tracts and read the Bible. Was well received.

"Visited a young man who suffered from chest disease, and to whom I had given a Bible. After prayer and words of encouragement, he fell asleep in the arms of the Saviour at 23 years of age. His poor mother could not understand what there was so powerful in the Book which could make her son so resigned, even in his last moments. Pray for her with me that the all-powerful name of Jesus may be revealed to her likewise.

"I was entreated by a man to come and visit his wife. The neighbours came in, and he said, 'You must not leave us without praying with us.' This man and the others are very interesting. It is sweet to see the power of God manifesting itself in souls who were so far off ; for he was a violent man who used to ill-treat his wife.

TOULON

Is in Provence, the Department of the Var, the Plymouth of France, its dockyard being twice the size of that at Portsmouth. There is abundant room for labour amongst the workmen, soldiers, sailors, and marines.

Our sister LOUISE is a middle-aged Christian woman, who has been an institutrice, and begins her work with some promise of usefulness. She writes :

"Made my way to the barracks, but was refused an entrance, and informed at what hour we could come and distribute. This I succeeded in doing. Several asked for New Testaments.

"Went again to a village where there are several barracks. The captain came to ask me if my books were from the curé or from the Bible Society. I told him, and he replied, 'Then you can go everywhere and distribute.' For a whole hour distributed to the blue collars, and even to some of the decorated officers. Some came and apologized for the indifferent amongst them.

"Braced up my courage, with the help of God, and made an effort to enter a large barracks. Was discouraged by friends, but was taken to the officers, and they gave me full permission.

"Went to Marseilles to see our sisters who are in the work, and learn from their experience, as I am threatened with all kinds of evils if I do not get an authorization. Made many inquiries as to what was best to be done, and the result is, that I have nothing to do but commit myself into the hands of the Lord for his guidance.

"Visited a school, and distributed to the girls; then went with Miss Rengers to the washing-houses. Had groups around us, and spoke of salvation.

"Visited a dying woman, and spoke to her of the love of the Saviour. Afterwards endeavoured to console her family after her death.

"To the funeral; the pastor's words were likely to be very beneficial to the numerous Catholic hearers.

"Went to the neighbourhood, where there are many German families. The women are Protestants, and the husbands Catholics. They allow their wives to baptize the children at the temple. They seemed interested in my visits.

"Visited the military, and had a great distribution. The high wind did not allow me to go out for several days. Distributed six hundred tracts to the infantry of the marine. The officers have showed me much politeness, and told me I could go into all the rooms. Was well received by an adjutant of the artillery and his wife. He reads the Bible which I obtained for him. It is a well-behaved family.

"Went to a village at some little distance. The adjutant enquired what sort of books I distributed; and as I replied evangelical, he said, 'You can go and distribute everywhere.'

"To the sailors who guard the powder magazine.

"To the barracks of the artillery. The officers are very kind to me. Some of the men said, 'Can you not give us cantiques? we cannot always read, but we can almost always sing.'

"Visited a family from Corsica, who desire to know the truth. They are extremely ignorant, but ask for instruction. Promised them a New Testament.

"Visited a fort, and was well received. The guardian of the fort has lost both his legs, but he thirsts for the knowledge of God.

"Went to the hospital and spoke to a sick seaman. Was followed in the streets by a magistrate and some of his agents. I was alarmed, but they did not arrest me.

MARSEILLES

Is the great seaport of France. Is in Provence, and the principal town of the Bouches du Rhone, and the most important commercial centre next to Paris. There are perhaps 10,000 Protestants here, but as to a work of aggressive evangelization, it is almost unknown. There is great need for evangelizing its sailors. Its docks can hold all the ships of the Mediterranean, and sailors of all nations almost are to be met with here.

We have now three sisters at work in this important city.

LEA has been carrying on an interesting and useful work for several years. She is the mother of the soldiers who come every evening to the library and reading-room in the neighbourhood of the barracks. She reads and explains the Scriptures to them, and has their confidence and affection. As will be seen, she evangelizes in the neighbourhood, and seems to enjoy a prescriptive right to penetrate everywhere.

"Since I visited the barracks with Miss Bonnycastle I have always been well received. The officers are also well disposed, as they remember the kindness shown to them when they were prisoners in Germany. Went into every room and spoke of the Saviour. There was an expression of displeasure when any man expressed his incredulity.

Went to Toulon to assist our sister who is beginning to work there. Went into a barrack, where I found some men of the 81st, who had been in Marseilles. Several left their play and their pipes in order to give attention to the good news.

"Went to the barracks of the *douaniers*. One of them took me up to his wife, who has a workroom full of young women engaged in sewing. I spoke to them of Him who takes away the sin of the world. These poor Catholic girls are entirely ignorant of all that.

"Visited the marines. An officer was well disposed, and even showed me his Bible, which he always reads, but said that discipline was very strict there, that I could not distribute; but told me he would take charge of my tracts and do so himself.

"A soldier told me that his officer, having observed the New Testament which I had given him, wished to obtain one for himself.

"Went on board a ship-of-war and sold many New Testaments. An old sailor thanked me heartily for a tract, and said, 'That suits me. I cannot go along with that religion all made up of picces of five francs.'

"Conducted by a guard over a barrack; the men were humble, attentive, and very respectful. Taken to the *enfants de troupe*; some of the men were anxious to have the New Testament.

"Distribution to military posts and in cafés, where I met many sailors. Then to the coachmen, who always receive me with pleasure; they get down from their seats, and surround me to hear about salvation. One asked me for the tract 'Le Salut ne s'achete pas.' I had not got it, but gave him 'L'Aubergiste,' which is also by Martin Booz.

"Visited a workshop which I had not entered for some time, not having had permission. This time the girls received me with great joy; listened well to the reading of the Scriptures; some of them even wept. A woman shook my hand cordially on leaving.

"Had a great distribution to the women who make cigars.

"The reading-room is filled of an evening, and there is a great seriousness about them. They listen well to the reading and explanation of the Scriptures.

"To the barracks. Spent part of the morning going from room to room.

"Distributed to workmen, who always receive me with pleasure.

"We have advocates for the benefits of our tracts in the town generally, against the fanatical portion of the inhabitants.

"Distributed amongst several monks and nuns, and in the railway spoke to many of the passengers.

"Distributed in a house. The children rush to the stairs to get tracts, and I hear a little boy reading to his mother whilst she nurses her baby.

"The clergy have opened a place near our library to attract the soldiers away from the Protestant Propaganda, as they call our meetings for explaining the Bible. Notwithstanding they have drink at a cheap rate, the honest fellows will not take advantage of it, and they do not respect them any more on account of it.

"Visited the military posts, as well as to the sailors. Found two black sailors. Read some verses from the New Testament which much astonished them.

"A poor woman who had attended my meeting interested her mistress by singing some hymns, and as the latter was much in fear of death, she was greatly struck by what she heard.

"Went to the women who make sacks, though the clergy endeavoured to prevent me. The superintendent, a Catholic woman, permits me. The women are so glad that I come and speak to them of the Saviour; they say I do not come often enough.

"In a workroom two girls were much impressed with the explication of the brass serpent. They begged me (the mistress likewise) to visit them often.

"The numbers of soldiers coming to the meetings augment, and so also that of the *ouvrier*; both hear the good news.

"A sailor, to whom I had given tracts, came, on his return from a voyage, to ask, on the part of the officers, that I would give him some for the whole crew. The clergy have complained at the prefecture of my work; but the soldiers protest against it, saying that I only speak to them of God and of His gospel.

"Distributed in a faubourg. At a restaurant they pressed me to eat and drink gratuitously; and a chestnut-seller and a seller of apples pressed on me their fruit, from gratitude for the tracts I give them.

"At the library the soldiers come and speak of divine truth. This gives me hope that the efforts we make are not without effect. One soldier, writing to a comrade, put the text, 'What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' and made me sign my name to it.

"Mr. and Mrs. L——, who have attended our meetings and received

good, are now going to a village in Arriege, and hope to propagate the truth they received through you, dear madam.

"A chestnut dealer tells me of the good he has received through the tracts; he keeps them, and takes them back to his friends in Savoy.

"At the barraeks, the men group round me, and listen with much respect and attention.

"Again to the barraeks of St. V——, where the men have just arrived from Africa. The adjutant pressed me to visit all over it.

"A poor woman in indigence opened her Testament on the passage which speaks of God caring for the fowls of heaven, and felt greatly encouraged. Shortly after, unexpected assistance came in.

"Visited the artillery and the chasseurs. I shall not easily forget their attention as they listened to things so new and strange for them.

"A soldier told me a comrade of his was going to America; he is so 'fatigué' with the priests.

"At my meetings for soldiers they sometimes choose the chapter they wish me to explain.

"Speaking to a group of workmen, one of them said that, being a prisoner in Germany, he had received a tract which showed that 'God would come to a man's help,' and that this thought had rested on his mind, and much impressed him at the great condescension of God.

"I have been much touched at the cordial affection which the soldiers manifested in coming to wish me a happy new year. It is some response to the many prayers I put up for them."

ALEXANDRINE follows her work with great perseverance and interest, growing in experience and tact. She gave up her work in a factory from love to souls. She thus writes:

"Went round the barraeks of V——. Had a good talk with an elderly soldier, who interested me much. He said, 'I could listen for a long time to the good things you speak of.'

"I went to a Catholic woman, who listened with eagerness about the work of the Saviour.

"Held a prayer meeting for young girls.

"Took a turn through the town. Visited some poor souls in distress. In the afternoon went to the library to teach the poor women of the sewing class.

"Visited a Catholic woman who is so anxious to hear of the Lord Jesus.

"In the afternoon went to the infirmary, and spoke of Jesus to the poor sick. They were so humble in listening to the truth. One said, 'I am longing to go and be with the Saviour for a whole eternity.'

"In the morning I climbed the hill to the Virgin, and visited the military post there. I had to be careful lest I should be disturbed by a priest. Having finished, I came down the other side.

"To-day visited the parents of some young girls who much interest me. One said, 'Are you the Virgin appearing to us for the first time?' They had never heard speak of Jesus before.

"Went on board ship, and distributed books to the sailors and soldiers going out to Africa.

"Visited several sick Catholics ; one very interesting, who had been ill for many months, waiting for the message of Jesus. Then I went into a shop, where some people were waiting to hear more about Jesus, as I had been there before. I read two tracts to them, and the tears ran down their faces, and I felt the Holy Spirit was over us, working in their hearts.

"To-day went out into the villages, and was much encouraged. I visited a large workshop. The men would make me speak of salvation, which I did, the Lord helping me. About the grace and love of God to sinful men they listened well.

"I then visited some people from the valleys of Piedmont. They asked me to preside at their meeting the first of the month.

"Visited a poor unfortunate girl. Then took a turn round the quay, and worked amongst sailors who are preparing for a long voyage. I spoke to them of Jesus dying on the cross for sinners, and now ascended and interceding for them.

"Visited a young Catholic married woman.

"Went into a buvette, and spoke to all present. Then to the Custom House, and distributed tracts.

"Held a meeting for young girls ; twelve came.

"Went round my neighbourhood. Comforted a woman who has a bad husband ; read and prayed with her.

"Assisted at the sewing-class ; read to them. Distributed tracts there and back.

"Visited the Moor ; he is a strong Mahomedan, and it is difficult to put in a word about Jesus. However, he lets me come, and always asks after Mrs. Pearse, who gave him the Arabic book last time he was ill.

"Continue to visit old Père Isard. He opens much more to the gospel of late. He still sits in his wooden box, and enjoys it this cold weather, and continually asks after his lady. I wish you could have seen the tears streaming down his face as I spoke to the poor old man of the love of Jesus to sinners.

FRANÇOISES still continues her work. She is an experienced Christian widow, and makes her way with that calm and self-possession which renders her a most useful labourer in the Lord's vineyard. She thus writes :

"Distributed on board several ships, and had good conversations with the men on board.

"Visited several villages. Had some interesting conversations. Distributed my tracts. (She does this everywhere, so that it will be unnecessary to repeat it continually.)

"Several visits on the outskirts of the town to workmen sick or out of work.

"Went into several avenues, where they made me enter in order to speak to them.

"To the Prado, and entered the restaurants and buvettes in the gardens.

"Our little meeting was more numerous than usual. The women put some interesting questions.

"To the hospital, to sick and infirm.

"To the barracks. Conversation with the soldiers.

"To restaurants and buvettes.

"Distribution to the peasants. They say they know the tracts, and like them. The women ask for them for their children. One asked for the tract 'Etes vous sauvés.'

"A poor woman has been pressed to enter the Catholic Church, and consented; but she does not know the difference. She accepted a New Testament. Her children have the blue line sign of being devoted to the Virgin. She promised to come to the meeting. Her husband is Catholic, or rather sceptic.

"Some women asked for tracts for their children, who are about to observe their first communion. They say we Catholics are not so pious nor so well-instructed as you Protestants.

At a restaurant they called me in to speak to them of Jesus, and distribute my tracts.

"Good distribution at the railway to soldiers arriving from Africa. They said they wanted tracts as a present to their friends.

"A soldier said, 'I have a little book in my knapsack, and a little book of prayers, too' (for so they often call a tract). 'You must read it,' I said. 'Oh,' he said, 'I almost know it by heart.' 'Do you call on the name of Jesus?' 'Oh, yes; I love Him.' He seemed a soul won for heaven!

"One poor woman goes to mass every morning at five o'clock. She is very ignorant. I directed her to Jesus.

"A poor woman seemed touched as I spoke to her of the love of Jesus.

"Distributed to some workmen, who said, 'My good woman, you will lose your time in speaking to us; it is too late for us to change.'

"Good meeting. Miss Rengers was present; her presence encourages us much.

"Conversation with some Italian nurses, and much interested in them.

"Took an excursion into the country. Visited some of my own relatives, who are very ignorant of the truth.

"Received visits in my house. Several women seemed impressed.

"Other visits. Many said, 'You ought to stay here; you would do good.' A short sermon on the Sunday is all the opportunity they have of instruction.

"Went to a little village and distributed to every one. Many were invited to the house to see me, and I spoke to all freely about the truth.

"Travelled to another place in the night. We had a terrible storm, which detained us an hour in the inn. Had an opportunity of distributing and speaking to many.

"Visited several hamlets in my own country. Distributed, and spoke of the Saviour. Several friends came to see me in the house where I stayed, asked news of their friends at Marseilles, and recommended me to give these little books to them.

"To Villeneuve. Distributed to everybody, and on the way in the hotel, and *en route*. The children to whom I spoke in a village seemed to know something of the Saviour's work.

"To-day went into some remote districts where there are scattered houses, and had conversation with poor souls deserted by all.

"Several visits. Read and prayed with many in other directions.

"May the Saviour bless His word where I have been. This department of Ardèche, where I have travelled, is almost entirely Catholic, the people very fanaticised, but now are becoming infidel. May God send His Spirit to revive the dead !

"Went into a village, and the women said, 'You should stop here in our village, and you would do much good.' I was much touched with the sincerity of these dear souls.

"Returned to my temporary home very fatigued, but very grateful.

"How sad it is to see people deprived of the truth, and under bad guides.

"Went, accompanied with a woman, to a long distance. Entered into all the houses, speaking of God and giving them tracts ; reading some verses to the old women, and translating it in patois. Returned back in a thunderstorm.

"To-day went into a distant village, where there are no Protestants. I had several days asked God to give me courage for this work, and went out. On arriving, everybody came forward and thanked me for coming. Some old women went about to collect the people. They said, 'What can we do for you?' I had to stay for an hour each in three houses to speak to all that came in and about the doors. I gave tracts, and told them to lend them. At one house, where I gave the man a New Testament, his wife wept with joy. Several came to the house, and some of these people seem won to the gospel. Read and prayed with them. They said, 'You ought to stay with us ; we want you. We are without knowledge of God.'

"Back to Marseilles. Distribution on board several ships, and to firemen and soldiers. Distribution in different quarters.

"A nice little meeting. The women seem to understand what we are met for. Oh, who is sufficient for such a work !

"A poor woman, to whom I spoke of the love and sufferings of the Saviour, sobbed aloud ; her heart seemed touched.

"Went on board an Italian and a French ship. The mate said he loved to hear of these things, and to hear the gospel explained. I told him we must receive the Holy Spirit to understand it aright.

"The field of labour is so enlarged that I cannot enter every open door. I ask the Lord each day to direct me where to go, and what to say. We are poor, miserable instruments, but it pleases Him to make use of us.

"Visited some very interesting persons, who read the gospel, and like me to speak about it.

"The firemen are much interested, and put very close questions about the gospel.

"To a restaurant. The master wishes me to distribute to his customers.

"Read a tract to some men sitting in the sun. They were pleased.

"Went from house to house, entering each stage of each house. A great variety of scenes and of work to be done, and of distribution.

"Continued this work. Were well received. Some said that God had sent us, and tears were on the faces of some. Workmen asked for gospels.

"A man, formerly an infidel, asked for the New Testament.

"Some women asked me questions, and I read them a chapter.

"Some people remarked to-day, 'Here is a singular thing; the women are turning priests. How the world is turning upside down!'

"Distributed in a quarter, and some said I might do better than serve the curés. I said I did not serve the curés, but Jesus Christ. These women were total unbelievers.

"To a workman's, and had a nice little meeting, and the people very attentive.

"In a magazine a woman was very violent, and would have struck me; and said, 'Be off, you woman of the curé;' but others around knew better, and only smiled.

"To the posts of the douaniers, who receive me exceedingly well.

"To a workshop where nearly all are fanatically unbelievers. Several, however, said there's nothing like the word of God. Some men said the priests will spoil all religion. We had better have things as they are in Switzerland.

"To a buvette and distributed.

"Several persons came to my rooms to thank me for my visits, and for the good I had done them, and hoping I should continue to instruct them, that they might make progress in the knowledge of the gospel.

"A poor old woman had received the viaticum, and all the sacraments of the church, but that had not given her peace of soul. I spoke of Jesus and prayed with her; but there is the difficulty of her own righteousness to overcome.

"Visited from house to house to about forty different apartments.

"Visited the Italians. One woman said, 'God and the good mother has sent you.' She was charmed to hear the word of Jesus.

"We have asked God to give us to see many conversions during the course of this new year.

"A poor woman has lost her daughter, although, as she said, she had been on pilgrimage, and been twice to 'Notre Dame de Lourde.' She begins to read the New Testament.

"My meeting increases in number; the women are very happy. Read a tract to some men in a buvette; they thanked me much for my good counsels and my little books."

NIMES,

In the Province of Languedoc, the chief town of the Department du Gard, is a flourishing town of 60,000 inhabitants. It abounds with Roman remains.

We commenced our work of Bible Women with the co-operation of our beloved friend Mdlle. L——, who still continues to assist us, and is the centre of a great work for France.

MARIE D—— perseveres in her work. She is a middle aged, gentle, earnest, and devoted Christian woman.

Her superintendent supplies us with the following statement of her work:

"MARIE follows up her work at the barracks. She has met with a rich Catholic family, to whom she lends books, and puts them into connection with their friends. Her soldiers give her great joy. Her large and small books circulate quietly in the barracks. Catholics whom she visits come to our evening meetings. It is a work of patience, and just suits her.

"MARIE gives me particulars of her travels in the Haute Loire. She is of this department, and speaks the *patois*.

"At the hamlet of C——, two young girls have been converted by her means. They begin to evangelize, and distribute and lend books to their neighbours. Before she left, she left her books with the new regiment at the barracks. There is a soldier there who has been brought to the Lord by her means, and he begins to work among his comrades.

"MARIE receives in her rooms the Catholic servants.

In the last days of November Marie visited the Catholic villages. The previous Bible Woman had distributed tracts very widely, and she enters upon her work.

On returning to Nîmes, she makes her way in the barracks; she is a great friend of the cantonière. The soldiers come every evening to the library of the Young Men's Christian Association. A soldier assists her in distributing in various barracks. She went to Avignon to the barracks to see the soldiers whom she had previously met with. Went amongst the washing women, and speaks with great tact. On passing a cross, she attracts the attention of passers-by, and speaks of the sufferings of the Saviour. She has gone to the villages of the Provençales, and meets with them at an appointed rendezvous. Amongst the Catholic women, two have found peace. MARIE heard some soldiers talking outside the union, "Here they do not pay; come in. I go in like to my own home; I do not pay there." The other replied, "But my feet are so dirty." "Never mind," said his comrade, "there is no carpet," and they enter confidently.

Our friend and sister, Madame R——, continues her deeply-important work without interruption. She is a gifted person, the widow of a pastor. She holds a great many meetings for evangelization and for the benefit of Christians, and has an entry almost everywhere, in temples, chapels, schoolrooms, and private houses. When we consider that in some parts of the south so many sceptical pastors—so-called liberal—are misleading the people, and that she has a ready access to them in city, hill, and plain, and with tact and heavenly wisdom is enabled to proclaim the truth of the gospel, even in distant departments, her labour acquires an untold importance. God has greatly used her to fan the flame of revival and awaken sinners in numerous places.

"I begin my journal by writing from Gap, in the Hautes Alpes, the country of Felix Neff. Visited several places with Madame Vernier (formerly Mdlle. Arnoux); to a place where there is a little church; very dead. Held several meetings. Left them with regret.

"On Sunday, spoke in the temple after the pastor. To St. Laurent du Cros. A good woman showed me Felix Neff's portrait, the kitchen where he gathered the people, and the great chimney where he sat.

"I gathered 40 of the people in a kitchen. Sunday evening in the temple; had 200 persons. 'Stay with us,' said a woman, 'and the whole village will be changed.'

"Held a meeting in a large kitchen, and then another in the evening at the temple. Men were not excluded.

"Back to her own department. She held a meeting at Sauve, where a young girl had been much impressed under Miss Bonnyeastle's address. See is making progress in the divine life.

"To Lunel. Meetings in the chapel, with a Methodist brother; then an open-air meeting under the trellis-work. They gave out hymns from time to time, and we were much refreshed.

"To Florac. Two Catholic women could not sleep all night after hearing speak of the conversion of St. Paul. Several other souls were impressed.

"Meeting at the Pont de Montvert; people are very interesting. Went on horseback with a Christian lady to Finialette; had the whole village. Sunday passed to St. André Valborgne. Held two meetings of 130 and 150; then next day to St. Estrechure.

"To St. Jean du Gard. A meeting was arranged for me, but I felt so depressed and discouraged that I sought the opportunity of prayer with the dear pastor, and was afterwards remarkably helped.

"At G—— a woman rose in the meeting and said she was converted eighteen months back at a meeting which I held; another I found had also found peace that day.

"To Pomarèdes, and held a meeting under the chestnut trees of about seventy; many came from far.

"To a village high up the mountain. Could not get a conveyance, and so went on foot. I was recompensed by seeing the whole of the inhabitants. Men, women, and children came to hear me. Several women made remarks during the meditation.

"At F—— the women begged me to stay.

"At V——, a little village high up amongst the rocks, twenty-five persons came. Went there again. A rationalist pastor stood in the doorway as I spoke on 'How long halt ye between two opinions?'

"To U——, where a liberal pastor goes only once a month. Had difficulty in finding a place for meeting.

"Met in a court, where about forty people listened very attentively.

"To A——, where the maire gave me the use of the schoolroom, and had about fifty.

"To G——, and the pastor gave me the temple to hold a meeting for women—wives of miners. Three hundred women and thirty men.

"At Aigues-Vives. Had sixty in the evening. A poor shepherd, a Christian man, told them of the blessing which had fallen upon them at V——. Six persons had cried out for mercy, and two had received peace.

"A poor girl found peace, and at a prayer meeting prayed that other souls might give themselves to the Saviour.

"At F——, where they always speak of the Family Pearse, 'This church is not alive.'

"To Aiglades (place of eagles). Up the mountain received by a

charming family. They showed me from the window at all points the people coming with their lanterns up the mountain from five different hamlets: an hour's journey. About 200 collected.

Then a peasant came from Puechs, to fetch me on his mule along the peak of the mountain. Had about 100.

"Then on to the village F——, and had 80.

We could go on with similar statements, but these will suffice. During the year Madame R—— held 270 meetings in 145 different places—in 18 temples, 50 Methodist Chapels, and 12 of the Free Church, besides schoolrooms and kitchens. It is not out of ostentation that these facts are given, but only to show what a wide door is open for the preaching of the gospel and the edification of believers. Our friend most earnestly ask our prayers, that soul and body may be wholly consecrated to the Lord.

Madame R—— makes a few remarks about the localities where she has laboured.

In the high Alps, Farel, born at Gap, was at Neuchatel what Calvin was for Geneva. St. Laurent du Cros is exclusively Protestant, and preserves the traditions of Felix Neff. There is perhaps not a single sceptic in this country.

"In the Lozère I visited 18 places almost entirely Protestant; and it is a singular thing that even where there are liberal pastors the population lean to the gospel."

"In the Gard, have been to about 150 places, where I am received gladly. Eighteen temples are open to me. The President of Consistory in one of the churches introduced me to a member of his counsel as 'Madame R——, a Missionary Evangelist, widow of the pastor of the National Church.' This opens many doors to me."

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FOR BIBLE WOMEN.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. P. Mackinnon . . .	50	0	0
J. W. A.	10	0	0
Ditto	25	0	0
Lord Congleton . . .	20	0	0
Mrs. Hone	24	0	0
Mrs. Timæus	10	0	0
Ditto	10	0	0
Mr. R. C. L. Bevan . .	50	0	0
Mr. J. Morley	25	0	0
Mr. Chaffey and Miss Silli- fant	5	0	0
Mr. Sydney Bevan . . .	1	0	0
Mr. G. Williams	10	0	0
Mr. S. Morley	25	0	0
Dr. Kidd	10	0	0
Mrs. Cheyne	1	0	0
Evangelization Society, by Mr. D. Matheson . . .	15	0	0
Mr. R. Baxter	50	0	0
Mr. R. Sarjent	5	0	0
Mrs. W. G. Gibson, <i>additional</i>	10	0	0
Hon. Cowper Temple . .	5	0	0
Mr. C. Underwood, Welbeck Street	3	0	0
Mr. H. W. Hull	5	0	0
W. R.	20	0	0
Mr. J. P. Marsh	2	0	0
Anonymous, paid in . .	2	0	0
Ditto ditto	5	0	0
Miss Hutchinsons . . .	1	1	0
Mr. H. Thompson . . .	10	0	0
	<u>£409</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

FOR BIBLE WOMEN.

	£	s.	d.
By Messrs. Morgan & Scott, <i>The Christian</i>	17	5	10
Ditto ditto	23	13	6
Ditto ditto	52	10	0
	<u>£93</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>

For ditto, in French money.

	fr.
Madme M. (returned) . . .	200
Miss Rengers	400
Madme Peretto	10
Capt. Walkey, R.A. . . .	20
	<u>fr. 630</u>

FOR EVANGELIZATION.

Mr. J. G. Oswald	32	0	0
Ditto	50	0	0
Messrs. R. Chapman and W. Hake	10	0	0
Mr. McLaren, Buchanan Street, Glasgow	3	1	10
	<u>£95</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>

FOR VARIOUS OBJECTS.

Mr. J. G. Oswald, Journals .	25	0	0
Ditto Mr. McAll	25	0	0
J. W. A., for ditto	10	0	0
Ditto Miss De Broen . .	10	0	0
Hon. and Rev. E. V. Bligh, for Miss Bo.	5	7	6
	<u>£75</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

BIBLE WOMEN IN FRANCE.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM MARCH 16TH, 1874, TO MARCH 16TH, 1875.

Income.				Expenses.			
BIBLE WOMEN.							
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance at London and Westminster Bank	129	5	0	By payments to Bible Women	472	13	5
Subscriptions and Donations	409	1	0	Ditto Printing, Advertising, circulating by post, &c.	22	19	6
Ditto in French moneys, fr. 630	25	5	0	Balance at London and Westminster Bank	151	7	5
Ditto by <i>The Christian</i>	93	9	4				
EVANGELIZATION.							
To Balance at London and Westminster Bank	125	12	0	By payments to Evangelists	125	10	0
Subscriptions and Donations	95	1	10	Ditto for Meetings and Expenses connected therewith	51	3	3
				Balance at London and Westminster Bank	41	11	4
				Cash in hand	12	9	3
FOR VARIOUS OBJECTS.							
To Donations (as per list)	75	7	6	Payments for objects indicated	75	7	6
	£953	1	8		£953	1	8

Examined and found correct,

F. LYS SMITH,

NORWOOD.

23rd March, 1875.